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Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 8th and 9th meetings, on 11 October 2018. Action on the item was taken at its 23rd and 25th meetings, on 8 and 28 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1] Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, on 8, 9 and 10 October.[2]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the forum on financing for development follow-up, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 23–26 April 2018) (A/73/86-E/2018/68);

(b) Letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the forty-second annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 2018 (A/73/417);

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.8, A/C.2/73/SR.9, A/C.2/73/SR.23 and A/C.2/73/SR.25.

[2] See A/C.2/73/SR.2, A/C.2/73/SR.3, A/C.2/73/SR.4, A/C.2/73/SR.5 and A/C.2/73/SR.6.

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(c) Letter dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 26 September 2018 (A/73/455).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.[3]

5. At the 27th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee.[4]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.17 and A/C.2/73/L.42

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" (A/C.2/73/L.17).

7. At its 25th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" (A/C.2/73/L.42), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.17.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.42 had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.42 (see para. 12).

10. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Japan.

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

[3] See A/C.2/73/SR.23.
[4] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 70/192 of 22 December 2015, 71/217 of 21 December 2016 and 72/208 of 20 December 2017 on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development and its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reiterating the affirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and attaining the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

Welcoming the convening of the third annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up from 23 to 26 April 2018,

Recalling the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum,[2] which decided that the fourth Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up would convene from 15 to 18 April 2019 and would include the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and also that the 2019 forum would consider and report in its outcome document on the need to hold a follow-up conference,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision E/2017/206 of 5 October 2016,

Noting the sixth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, held in New York on 21 and 22 May 2018, and its outcomes,[3]

Noting also the high-level meeting of the Secretary-General on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in New York on 24 September 2018, and the presentation of the strategy of the Secretary-General for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018–2021), and looking forward to regular updates by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strategy,

Looking forward to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,

Looking forward also to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which will be held back-to-back with the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to work towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[4]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,[5] and notes that progress, though uneven, has been reported in all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while acknowledging that many implementation gaps persist;

3. *Welcomes* the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up,[2] urges their full, effective and timely implementation, and looks forward to staying engaged so as to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and in the delivery of the means of implementation, promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of this agenda as the need arises and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community in substantive intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations at the 2019 forum;

4. *Looks forward* to the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2019 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

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[2] See E/FFDF/2018/3.

[3] See E/2018/73.

[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[5] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.5).

5. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to begin early planning of the 2019 forum on financing for development follow-up;

6. *Recalls* that decisions relating to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up are to be contained within the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

7. *Takes note* of the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the initial contributions made by India to the voluntary trust fund and the contribution by the European Union and other countries supporting the Committee's subsidiary bodies, and urges Member States to come forward to contribute more to the trust fund in order to support the participation of developing countries;

8. *Welcomes* the holding of the 2018 Global Infrastructure Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, and reiterates that the Forum is mandated to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries;

9. *Also welcomes* the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is important, inter alia, in helping to facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Goals, looks forward to the establishment of the online platform as part of the Mechanism, and welcomes the progress made in operationalizing the technology bank for the least developed countries;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the third annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in New York on 5 and 6 June 2018, whose Co-Chairs' summary[6] served as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and highlighted, inter alia, the promotion of networking and matchmaking among relevant stakeholders, especially innovators, funders and other supporters, to bridge the technology gap for the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Recalls* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize the means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the implementation of which requires following up on, that relate to its seven action areas, namely domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building; and data, monitoring and follow-up;

12. *Notes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, whose agreed policy recommendations serve as an input to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in accordance with the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts;

13. *Welcomes* the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of co-facilitators to consult with Member States on the substantive work, including the possible outcome, of the 2019 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of

[6] See E/HLPF/2018/6.

the General Assembly, and invites the President to keep Member States updated on the developments of the process;

14. *Takes note* of the joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, held on 14 September 2018, regarding the issues to be addressed in the thematic chapter of the 2019 and 2020 reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a summary report synthesizing the findings of the first four reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the results as well as the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the four Economic and Social Council forums on financing for development follow-up as an input to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly in 2019 and the discussions of the Second Committee during the seventy-fourth session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development", unless otherwise agreed.